



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION  
MAY 6, 1937, P.M. PAPERS

TELLS MAMMAL SOCIETY OF  
U. S. AREAS FOR BIG GAME

Ranging wide on more than five million acres in eleven big game refuges and preserves in seven States and Alaska, are thousands of buffalo, elk, deer, mountain sheep, muskoxen, antelope, and other wild animals protected and perpetuated under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. How they have fared under Federal protection was the subject of an address today (May 6) before the American Society of Mammologists meeting this week in Washington, by Stanley P. Young, chief of the Biological Survey's division of game management.

Although tracing the history and status of each area, Mr. Young discussed at length the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, in Oklahoma, first of these great game sanctuaries to be established. Set aside as a forest reserve in 1905, it was further designated a game preserve under administration of the Forest Service. In 1935, in recognition of its primary importance as a wildlife preserve and out-of-door laboratory for wildlife research, the Wichita area was transferred to the Survey for administration.

"On this refuge," said Mr. Young, "are herds of buffalo, elk, and white-tailed deer. The buffalo, gift of the New York Zoological Society, were put on the area in 1907, the animals forming the nucleus herd. It now includes some 300 animals. The first elk for this refuge were transferred from Jackson Hole, Wyoming,

in 1911. Others were added in 1912-13, from Jackson Hole and Yellowstone Park, so that now there are about 220 in the herd. White-tailed deer are native to the region and, though greatly reduced in numbers when the preserve was established, there are now about 640 on the area."

Attempts to establish antelope and mountain sheep on this refuge were made several times during the years since 1910, said Mr. Young, by transferring these animals in small numbers from Yellowstone Park and Canada. Change in forage and climate, however, reduced their resistance, and they failed to survive.

A number of Texas longhorn steers were imported here in 1927. There are now 105 animals in this herd, maintained on a wildlife basis. These cattle are the descendants of those introduced into the state by the Spaniards in the early days, and are noted for the role they played in the history of the West.

Mr. Young is also scheduled to discuss Wolf Hunting with a Camera at the Society's session tomorrow (May 7). Using colored slides, he plans to describe his experiences in obtaining flashlight photographs of black wolves in Louisiana.

#### Studies Beaver Populations

Studies of beaver colonies in Michigan, with special reference to population studies in general, was the subject of another paper presented at the Society's session today by a Biological Survey speaker. John Pearce, assistant biologist in the section of Wildlife Surveys, reviewed three of the most feasible methods in taking an animal census.

"In the midst of great conservation effort today," said Mr. Pearce, "an almost distressing need is felt in many quarters for practical wildlife censusing upon which management plans can be built.

"Lacking the seasoned maturity of long-time observations, some recent methods devised are frequently weird but, good or bad, they must be recognized as symbols of a crying need. It should be a source of satisfaction to veteran naturalists to know that the success of these new techniques depends very largely upon the inventor's familiarity with the past literature of the species involved and his own personal field experience."

- - - B - - -